

Stockton Record

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STOCKTON - Rep. Jerry McNerney, D-Pleasanton, has asked U.S. Postmaster General Patrick Donahoe to keep open the processing and distribution center on Arch Road.

The Stockton site is one of approximately 252 processing centers nationwide the Postal Service is planning to close in the coming year in order to stem losses.

The Postal Service is also considering reducing mail delivery to five days a week by eliminating Saturday delivery and allowing slower delivery of first-class mail.

In a letter dated Thursday, McNerney said Stockton has already been hard hit by the recession and that moving mail processing to a location 50 miles away in Sacramento will hurt Stockton businesses, employees and families.

"In this economy, we need to be creating jobs, not losing them," McNerney said in a statement.

Closing the Stockton center will eliminate an estimated 187 jobs, according to the Postal Service. A study found that the closure would save \$1.4 million a year, the Postal Service said.

How it would do that is not clear.

A summary of the study released by the Postal Service in November indicated the change would yield about \$5.5 million in savings per year by eliminating employees and building and

equipment maintenance, but would increase transportation costs by about \$4.3 million.

Those figures would appear to indicate a net savings of only \$1.2 million.

McNerney in his letter noted that the Postal Service did not release the detailed study that generated the savings estimate.

"Although the choices facing USPS are difficult, lack of transparency is unacceptable under any circumstance," McNerney said in his letter.